



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Senator Bewley and Representative Meyers Bill Passes State Legislature

Madison - Senate Bill 104, authored by Senator Janet Bewley (D - Delta) and Representative Beth Meyers (D - Bayfield), allowing the Town of La Pointe to enact shoreland zoning ordinances, passed the State Assembly this week and is headed to Governor Scott Walker's desk to be signed into law.

"At a time when the state legislature is steadily eroding local control, we were pleased to be able to convince our colleagues to give the citizens living on one of the state's few inhabited islands this small measure of local control."

SB 104 is narrowly focused and designed to respond to the unique situation faced by the Town of La Pointe on Madeline Island, which sits off the coast of Bayfield County but is part of Ashland County. To get to Ashland County from La Pointe you must take a 2.2 mile ferry trip and drive 23 miles. The bill allows the town officials to enact shoreland zoning ordinances that are more restrictive than Ashland County's shoreland zoning ordinances, regardless of the order of enactment.

"I appreciate my colleagues' recognition that one size does not fit all and thank them for supporting SB 104," said Bewley. "This bill is a step in the right direction to make sure that the Town of La Pointe has the ability to conduct their own shoreland zoning efforts in a concise and adequate fashion. As a freshmen legislator, I'm extremely pleased that we were able to work across the aisle and get a bill passed," added Meyers.

There was strong local support for action in both Ashland County and the Town of LaPointe after a court ruling that the Town lacked the authority to enact shoreland zoning ordinances. Senate Bill 104 was approved by the Senate last September and passed the State Assembly unanimously on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

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